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City man fed data to FBI, CIA

By THOMAS M. BURTON

A Baltimore man has acknowledged under oath that he has collected intelligence on liberals and the left since 1967 and forwarded it to many federal intelligence organizations, including the FBI.

John Herbert Rees, of the 2300 block North Howard street, acknowledged in a civil suit deposition that he supplied information on the Washington-based Institute for Policy Studies to FBI agents, both by calling the agents and by supplying them with his bi-weekly intelligence newsletter, *Information Digest*.

Mr. Rees also has provided information "from time to time" to the Maryland State Police Intelligence Division, Col. Thomas S. Smith, superintendent of the State Police, confirmed yesterday. "We'd probably call him up and say, 'What do you know?'" Colonel Smith said. "He wasn't a paid informant though." Colonel Smith emphasized that Mr. Rees provided information only occasionally.

Colonel Smith declined to say what

type of information Mr. Rees gave to State Police officers. He confirmed that the State Police received the intelligence newsletter but said it was unsolicited by the agency.

Mr. Rees, believed to be 51 years old, gave his deposition, which has been filed in United States District Court in Washington, in a suit brought by the Institute for Policy Studies, a liberal-left research organization, against the FBI and the Washington police.

The suit claims, among other allegations, that agents and informants of the two police agencies infiltrated the institute in the early 1970's and spied on their activities.

Another federal suit, brought by the National Lawyers Guild, alleges that Mr. Rees's wife, Sheila, while serving on the guild's national executive board in 1972 and 1973, "surreptitiously" provided information on the guild to the FBI, "purloined" guild documents and "disrupted" guild activities.

Mrs. Rees currently works for Representative Larry P. McDonald (D., Ga.) and worked in 1973 for the House Internal Security Committee (once called the House Un-American Activities Committee).

Since 1968, Mr. and Mrs. Rees have printed in *Information Digest*—and distributed to police and other investigative agencies—data on the noncriminal activities of thousands of liberal and left-wing individuals and organizations, including:

- A list of nearly 200 names, phonetically spelled, of people attending the February, 1973, national convention of the National Lawyers Guild in Austin, Texas.
- A list of entertainers such as the late Rod Serling, Donna Reed and Theodore Bikel, whom the newsletter described as "sympathetic to the [radical] movement." The newsletter said attempts were made to return this list to its owner because "under certain circumstances the publishing of stolen lists is illegal."
- A list of license plates seen outside a



JOHN H. REES

the Rev. John Seelye

1970 Black Panthers convention in Philadelphia.

The newsletter printed information about the Institute for Policy Studies, listing names, which the publication said were phonetically spelled, of resident fellows of the institute and names of eminent people—such as the Rev. Channing E. Phillips, playwright Arthur Miller and Julian Bond—who the newsletter said took active roles at the institute.

Recent attempts to interview Mr. Rees have been unsuccessful. Phone messages left with his lawyer in Washington, Louis Ingram, have not been answered by Mr. Rees, though Mr. Ingram said he told Mr. Rees about the attempts to reach him.